

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for selecting a public land mobile network to serve a mobile station,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving at the mobile station a list of data associated with networks
4 neighboring a PLMN currently serving the mobile station;

5 selecting a new PLMN to serve the mobile station from the PLMNs
6 neighboring the PLMN currently serving the mobile station based upon the list of data; and
7 changing the mobile station to the selected new PLMN.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises a list of
2 PLMNs neighboring the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises a list of
2 PLMNs adjacent to the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises a list of
2 PLMNs within a selected distance of the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises at least one
2 mobile country code associated with a network neighboring the PLMN currently serving the
3 mobile station.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the
2 step of:

3 determining if the at least one mobile country code is associated with a
4 preferred PLMN of the mobile station; and

5 selecting the preferred PLMN of the mobile station as the new PLMN if the
6 mobile country code is associated with the preferred PLMN.

1 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the preferred PLMN comprises a home
2 PLMN of the mobile station.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs only near a
2 border of a country.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs on a periodic
2 basis.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs on a
2 substantially continuous basis.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs during
2 registration of the mobile station with a PLMN.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the
2 step of receiving the list of data in a MM information message.

1 13. A method for selecting a PLMN to serve a mobile station comprising the steps
2 of:
3 transmitting from a base station associated with a serving PLMN to the mobile
4 station a list of neighboring PLMNs;
5 selecting a new PLMN from the list of neighboring PLMNs as a new PLMN
6 to serve the mobile station; and
7 changing the mobile station to the new PLMN.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the list of neighboring PLMNs further
2 comprises a list of PLMNs adjacent to the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the list of neighboring PLMNs further
2 comprises a list of PLMNs within a selected distance of the PLMN currently serving the
3 mobile station.

1 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting occurs on a periodic
2 basis.

1 17. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting occurs on a
2 substantially continuous basis.

1 18. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting occurs during
2 registration of the mobile station with the serving PLMN.

1 19. The method of Claim 13, wherein the list of neighboring PLMNs further
2 includes access technology.

1 20. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the
2 steps of:

3 determining a better PLMN exists for serving the mobile station from the list of
4 neighboring PLMNs; and
5 scanning for the better PLMN.

1 21. The method for selecting a preferred PLMN to serve a mobile station,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 transmitting from a base station associated with a serving PLMN to the mobile
4 station at least one mobile country code associated with a neighboring network;

5 selecting the preferred PLMN as a new serving PLMN if the at least one
6 mobile country code is associated with the preferred PLMN;

7 scanning for the preferred PLMN; and

8 changing the mobile station to the preferred PLMN.

1 22. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the
2 step of:

3 determining if the at least one mobile country code is associated with the
4 preferred PLMN of the mobile station; and

5 selecting the preferred PLMN of the mobile station as the new PLMN if the
6 mobile country code is associated with the preferred PLMN.

1 23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the
2 step of receiving the list of data in a MM information message.

1 24. The method of Claim 21, wherein the preferred PLMN comprises a home
2 PLMN of the mobile station.

1 25. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting further
2 comprises the step of transmitting from a base station near a border between first and second
3 countries.

1 26. A mobile terminal comprising:
2 circuitry for wirelessly connecting the mobile terminal to a serving PLMN
3 network;
4 a neighbor list containing data received from the serving PLMN enabling
5 selection of a PLMN neighboring the serving PLMN as a new serving PLMN; and
6 control logic for selecting the new serving PLMN responsive to the data of the
7 neighbor list.

1 27. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes a
2 list of PLMNs neighboring the serving PLMN.

1 28. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes a
2 list of PLMNs adjacent to the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 29. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes a
2 list of PLMNs within a selected distance of the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 30. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes at
2 least one mobile country code of a neighbor network of the PLMN currently serving the
3 mobile station.